

# Invasive Plants Management

## 2008 EQIP

### Special Funding Project

The Alabama USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is funding a new Invasive Plants Management Project. This special project, designated by the NRCS State Conservationist, is now funded by 2008 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds at the state level.

The project will provide incentive payments to landowners willing to control the targeted invasive species on their property. Incentive payments will be made to participating landowners for three years with contracts ranging from three to five years.

Landowners will be expected to treat invasive plant-infested acres according to treatment plans developed with the assistance of technical experts. Payments will be based on actual treatment (infested) acres.

#### Objectives

Invasive plants can be eliminated in many Alabama counties if action is taken now. This will result in greatly increasing the productivity of the land resources. This project has three main objectives:

1. Increase the overall awareness of the problem of the following targeted invasive species:

- kudzu
- cogongrass
- Chinese tallowtree
- Japanese climbing fern
- Multiflora, Cherokee, and Macartney rose

2. Provide an incentive to landowners to control these invasive species on their lands and therefore protect the land resource and its productivity.

3. Prevent the spread of invasive plants to non-infested lands.

#### Guidelines

The following guidelines should be followed to determine applicant qualifications and administer this project.

1. Eligible lands are those infested with the targeted species.
2. Eligible landowners, producers, or operators are those which will have control of the eligible land for the period of the contract and meet other eligibility requirements of the EQIP.

3. Only infested (treatment) acres are eligible for the incentive payments. Acres will be rounded to the nearest 1 acre. Areas of 0.1 to 1 acre will be funded at the 1 acre rate. A minimum of 1 acre is required for participation in this project. Payments will be limited to a maximum of 50 infested (treatment) acres.
4. Payment will be three years of incentive payments based on the species being controlled.
5. The tract, field, or management area will be included in each contract and conservation plan. For example, if an applicant has 10 acres of treatment area within a 40-acre tract which he manages as a unit, the contract and associated plan will include the 40-acre tract. The boundaries of the tract and the treatment areas will be shown on the contract plan map.
6. An initial treatment is required, plus follow-up treatments where needed. Contracts will be for a minimum of three years to a maximum of five years with a limit of three years of payments.
7. Land currently enrolled in CRP is not eligible for participation in this project.

For more information, visit [www.al.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov) or contact your local NRCS Service Center for further guidelines and details about the program. ☎

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